

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 675

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Rawls family of
Brownsville upon being named as 2012 AT&T
Black History Calendar Business Honorees.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those determined public servants who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, one such notable family is the Rawls family of Brownsville, the members of whom have served their community with distinction and have been named as 2012 AT&T Black History Calendar Business Honorees; and

WHEREAS, during the late 1940s, Charles A. Rawls, a mortician and owner of Rawls Funeral Home in Brownsville, saw firsthand how poverty affected the African-American farming community in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to create a fund to aid families who could not afford to bury deceased family members, Mr. Rawls reached out to concerned citizens to discuss ways to address the situation; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, the group decided to begin a fraternal organization to house the fund; and

WHEREAS, after reaching out to State departments, politicians, and legal scholars for assistance, Mr. Rawls and the team established the Sons and Daughters of the Golden Circle at the First Baptist Church of Brownsville; and

WHEREAS, the organization grew to thirty-three chapters within Haywood and Shelby counties and provided financial assistance for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, the organization became known as the Golden Circle Life Insurance Company and expanded its reach to Brownsville, Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Charles Rawls managed both companies until his death in 1987, at which time his daughter, Cynthia Rawls Bond, then transitioned to President; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bond has been involved with the companies since 1957 and the family businesses are still managed by the Rawls family today; and

WHEREAS, under Cynthia Bond's leadership, Rawls Funeral Home has grown to include locations in Paris, South Fulton, and Union City, and the funeral system itself has been in operation for more than seventy years; and

WHEREAS, Golden Circle Life Insurance operated for fifty-two years and was ranked among the top ten African-American-owned insurance companies by *Black Enterprise* magazine; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the family opened Golden Circle Life Insurance Agency, which is led by Ms. Bond's daughter, Andrea Bond Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Bond and her husband, Maltimore, along with Andrea Johnson's husband, Dwight Johnson, serve as partners in the business, which continues to thrive in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate for the members of this body to honor such a truly inspiring and exemplary family as the Rawls family during Black History Month; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Rawls family of Brownsville upon being named as 2012 AT&T Black History Calendar Business Honorees, thank them for their laudable service to the good people of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.